Amendments To Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for continuously processing porous material in a CVI furnace having a CVI chamber comprising placing said porous material into a plurality of individual modules, continuously loading the individual modules containing said porous material into said CVI chamber, introducing a reactant gas into said CVI chamber while heating said porous material with a heater plate located proximate to said porous material, to densify ~~whereby~~ said porous material ~~is densified~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, further comprising removing said porous material from said CVI chamber and cooling down said porous material ~~wherein said porous material is removed from the CVI chamber and cooled down~~.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said heater plate is located above said module.

5. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said heater plate is located below said module.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 4, wherein said CVI chamber includes an additional heater plate located below said module.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said gas flow is reversed during said process.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said reactant gas comprises

natural gas.

9. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said reactant gas comprises a mixture of methane and propane.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein said mixture comprises about 92.5% methane and about 7.5% propane.

11. (Currently Amended) A process for continuously processing porous material in a CVI furnace having a CVI chamber which is maintained at a desired temperature, pressure and flow rate comprising placing said porous material into ~~a~~ multiple individual modules, continuously loading the individual modules containing the porous material into said CVI chamber, introducing a reactant gas into said CVI chamber while heating said porous material with a heater plate located proximate to said porous material~~,~~ to densify ~~whereby~~ said porous material ~~is densified~~.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 11, further comprising removing said porous material from said CVI chamber and cooling down said porous material ~~wherein said porous material is removed from the CVI chamber and cooled down~~.

14. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said heater plate is located above said module.

15. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said heater plate is located below said module.

16. (Original) A process according to claim 14, wherein said CVI chamber includes an additional heater plate located below said module.

17. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said gas flow is reversed during said process.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said gas comprises natural gas.

19. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said gas comprises a mixture of methane and propane.

20. (Original) A process according to claim 19, wherein said mixture comprises about 92.5% methane and about 7.5% propane.

21. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said temperature is maintained in the range of about 1700 to about 2500.degree. F.

22. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said pressure is maintained in the range of about 50 to about 760 torr.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for continuously processing multiple layers of porous material in CVI furnace having a CVI chamber which is maintained at desired process conditions comprising placing said layers of porous material into a plurality of individual modules, continuously loading the individual modules containing the layers of porous material into said CVI chamber, introducing a reactant gas into said CVI chamber while heating said porous material with a heater plate located proximate to said porous material, to densify ~~whereby~~ said porous material ~~is densified~~.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A process according to claim 23, wherein said reactant gas flow is reversed during said process.

26. (Currently Amended) A process for processing porous material in CVI furnace having a CVI chamber which is maintained at desired process conditions comprising placing porous material into a plurality of individual modules, continuously loading the individual modules into said CVI chamber, introducing a reactant gas into said CVI chamber while heating said the porous material in ~~said~~ each module with a heater plate located proximate said porous material~~, whereby~~ to densify said porous material ~~in said module is densified~~.

27. (Original) A process according to claim 26, wherein said heater plate is above the module.

28. (Original) A process according to claim 26, wherein said CVI chamber includes an additional heater plate below said module.

29. (Original) A process according to claim 26, wherein said reactant gas flow is reversed during the process.

30-41. (Canceled)

42. (Original) A process according to claim 8, wherein ethane and propane is added to the natural gas.

43. (Original) A process according to claim 18, wherein ethane and propane is added to the natural gas.

44. (Original) A process according to claim 26, wherein the heater plate has a first thickness at its center and a second thickness at its periphery whereby the second thickness is larger than the first thickness.

45. (Currently Amended) A process for processing porous material in a conventional CVI furnace having a CVI chamber which is maintained at desired process conditions comprising placing porous material into a plurality of individual modules, continuously

loading the individual module~~s~~ into said CVI chamber, preheating a reactant gas, introducing said reactant gas into said CVI chamber while heating said porous material in ~~said~~ each module with a heater plate located proximate said porous material~~,~~ to densify~~, whereby~~ said porous material ~~in said module is densified~~.

46. (Original) A process according to claim 45, wherein the heater plate has a first thickness at its center and a second thickness at its periphery whereby the second thickness is larger than the first thickness.

47. (Canceled)